

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 3-9 and 12-18, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 19 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

voice recognition means for recognizing entered voice;

acceptance means for accepting a start request to start operation of said voice recognition means;

~~output~~ printing means for ~~outputting prescribed output information~~ printing a document;

and

~~output discriminating control~~ means for ~~determining whether said output means is currently producing an output;~~ controlling said voice recognition means and said printing means so that if said acceptance means accepts the start request while said printing means is in operation, said printing means suspends the printing operation and then said voice recognition means starts the voice recognition.

~~wherein if said acceptance means has accepted the start request during the output of the output information by said output means, said voice recognition means starts recognition of the entered voice after said output means suspends the output of the output information.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving ~~the output information~~ print data of the document; and

storage means for storing ~~output information~~ the print data received by said receiving means following the suspension of the output of the output information by said output means while the printing operation is suspended.

3-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming method in an image forming apparatus having voice recognition means for recognizing entered voice and ~~output~~ printing means for ~~outputting prescribed output information~~ printing a document, said method comprising the steps of:

accepting a start request to start voice recognition operation;

~~an output discriminating step of determining whether or not said output~~ the printing means is ~~currently producing an output;~~ in operation; and

~~an acceptance step of accepting a start request to start operation of said voice recognition~~ means;

~~a suspending step of suspending the output of the output information by said output~~ means if the start request has been accepted during output of the output information by said output means; and

~~a voice recognition step of starting voice recognition of the entered voice after output by~~ said output means has been suspended

controlling the voice recognition means and the printing means so that upon acceptance of the start request while the printing means is in operation, the printing means suspends the printing operation and then the voice recognition means starts the voice recognition.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein ~~said~~ the image forming apparatus further has storage means for ~~storing output information~~, said method further comprising the steps of:

~~a receiving step of receiving the output information~~ print data of the document; and
~~a storing step of storing, in [[said]] the storage means, output information received~~
following suspension of the output of the output information by said output means the received
print data while the printing operation is suspended.

12-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A program for causing a computer to control an image forming apparatus having voice recognition means for recognizing entered voice and ~~output~~ printing means for ~~outputting prescribed output information~~ printing a document, said program comprising the steps of:

accepting a start request to start voice recognition operation;
~~an output discriminating procedure for determining whether or not said output the~~
printing means is ~~currently producing an output~~; in operation; and
~~an acceptance procedure for accepting a start request to start operation of said voice~~
~~recognition means~~;
~~a suspending procedure for suspending output of the output information by said output~~
~~means if the start request has been accepted during output of the output information by said~~
~~output means~~; and

~~a voice recognition procedure for starting voice recognition of the entered voice after output by said output means has been suspended.~~

controlling the voice recognition means and the printing means so that upon acceptance of the start request while the printing means is in operation, the printing means suspends the printing operation and then the voice recognition means starts the voice recognition.